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WORDS EXPRESSIVE OF CRIES AND NOISES IN THE KOOTENAY LANGUAGE.

BY A. F. CHAMBERLAIN.

Animal Calls.

The information contained in these pages is based upon notes made by the writer in the Kootenay district in the summer of 1891. The Indian, Amelū, who was "his guide; philosopher, and friend," seemed well acquainted with various animal and bird cries and calls and was able to imitate many of them almost to perfection. Horses and dogs he called by different sorts of whistling. The coyote or prairie-wolf is called up by a whistle somewhat like that employed for the dog. On the evening of August 10, when camped in the foothills, with scarcely a sound audible in the stillness that reigned, the Indian whistled "to wake up the coyotes," as he expressed it, and in a very few moments their discordant barks and howls were heard on all sides, and whenever they relapsed into silence he would "wake them up again." The same evening the writer desired to obtain a specimen of the brown bat (*āqktlōm*) of this region and asked the Indian to secure one. Seizing a long stick, the latter posted himself a short distance from the camp-fire, and puckering up his lips, drew them in with a peculiar sound, and soon had the bats fluttering about him, when it was easy to knock one down. To drive away dogs and other animals the Kootenays use the word *ā!* in contrast to the *tlū'nū!* and *yūwā!* used to children and other human beings.

Terms Expressive of Animal Cries, etc.

The expression *kīlā'tlōōk* (speak, talk) is used of most beasts, birds and insects. It is applied, *e. g.*, to the horse, mule, buffalo, cow, caribou, deer, elk, mountain sheep, mountain goat, mountain-lion, bear, lynx, cat, otter, weasel, muskrat, beaver, gopher, chipmunk, squirrel, grouse, duck, robin, canary, fly, horse-fly, mosquito, etc. Examples:

kītā'tlōōk *pūs* = the mew of the cat.

" *k'k'ā'tlāqā'etltsin* = the neigh of the horse.

kīā'tlūōk g'ō'tsāts = the chirp of the chipmunk.

" nū'p'kū = the growl of the black bear.

" wō'tāk = the croak of the frog.

" kīā'wāts = the scream of the "fool-hen."

k'ū'pi tsitltātłō'kinē = the owl (k'ū'pi) hoots. Here *tsil* is a prefix of repetition or iteration.

tsi'tltātłō'kinē tō'k'uts kā'mēnā = the bird chirps, chatters, sings very much.

tātłō'kinē tsā'i = the canary sings.

tātłō'kinē k'ā'nk'ūsk'ō'ik'āk = the mallard duck screams.

tātłō'kinē yū'wāt' = the hornet buzzes.

tātłō'kinē ā'qkōkō'wōm = the fly buzzes

Of the fox and the skunk the Indians say they "never speak." In the animal-tales the fox and the mountain-lion are often represented as whistling—*kā'tlūk'ā'qenē'yām*—to scare away the skunk, who is afraid of that sound alone. Of the dog and the coyote *k'ō'wē* (to bark) is used. The howl of the timber-wolf is rendered by *ōūō!* *ōūō!* and spoken of as *kī'tā'k'āntlūō'k kā'qkin*, the "howl of the wolf" (*kā'qkin*). The noise made by the grizzly bear is represented by—

qūiū ūqqū'! and spoken of as *kī'tāwas tlāūtlā* (grizzly).

The cry of the eagle (called *gīyā'kānū'k'ōāt*) is rendered by *sak! sak!* The tomtit, the owl, the robin, and a few other birds are believed to speak Kootenay.

The noise made by the mosquito in buzzing is represented by *w'ūū! w'ūū!*

Human Cries and Noises.

"Chattering of the teeth:" *Gāk'ū'nānqō'mēk*. The word for "a tooth" is *ā'qk'ūnā'nām* (radical, *k'ū'nān*); the termination *-qōmēk* is found in various verbs: *hō'nāwāsqō'mēk*, "I sing," etc.

"Sneezing:" *Kātē'inām*; *kātē* (he sneezes). This word is probably onomatopoeic.

"Whistling:" *Kā'tlūk'ā'q'nē'yām*. Contains apparently the radical *tlōk*, seen in *kātłō'kinē*, "he speaks;" *-nēyām* is a termination occurring in many verbs.

"Coughing:" *Kō'tslūmā'Enām*. Contains the radical *tlū'mā*, "throat;" "a throat" is *ā'qk'tlūmā'Enām*; *-nām* is the ending of the general, indefinite noun.

"Kissing:" *Kā'tlkōk'ā'tlēmā'q'nā'mnām*. Compare the words

for "mouth," *āqk'ā'lemā'nām*, and for "lips," *ā'qkōk'ē'yōk'ā'le-mā'nām*.

"Snoring:" *Kāllū'kōk'lē'tsinām*. The word is derived from the radicals seen in *tāllō'kinē* (he speaks, makes a noise) and *kāk'lē'tsinē* (he sleeps). "Snoring" is "making a noise in sleep."

"Laugh:" *Nōmā'tsinē* (he laughs); the radical is *ōmāts*.

"Cry, weep:" *Nētlā'nē* (he cries); the radical is *ētlān*.

"Shout, call aloud:" *Wūlkī'nē* (he shouts). This word is probably derived from *wūl-*, "big, great," and *kē*, "to speak."

"Clapping of hands:" *Gōtā'k'ltāiqō'mēk*. Contains the radical of *ā'qkākltā'i'nām*, "palm of the hand."

"Clapping of hands on the thighs:" *Tū'k'pakqō'mēk*. Seems to contain the radical of *ā'qkikpā'kenām*, "thigh."

Noises in Nature.

"Babbling (of a brook):" *Gā'kinōqō'nōkqō'mēk*. The word for "a small stream" is *ā'qkinōqō'nōk*.

"Noise made by a river:" *Gā'kinmī'tūkqō'mēk*. The word for river is *ā'qkinmī'tūk*.

"Noise made by a lake:" *Gā'kōk'ā'sūkqō'mēk*.

"Noise made by water in falling over stones:" *Gīyā'kōk*.

"Noise made when a stone is thrown into the water:" *Gā-kū'kqōtl*.

"Noise made by water in boiling:" *Gākā'māk'ō'k'ō*. Contains seemingly the radical of *ā'qkink'ō'k'ō*, "fire."

"Noise made by fire burning:" *Gā'kink'ō'k'ōp'qō'mēk*. Contains the radical *k'ō'k'ō*, "fire."

"Rustling of leaves:" *Gā'kōtla'kpē'kqō'mēk*. Contains *ā'qkōtla'kpē'k*, "leaf."

"Echo:" *Nāmtlē'ēl*.

"Noise made by the wind:" *Gā'kātlō'mē* ("the wind makes a noise"). The word for "wind" is *āqk'ō'mē*; *wīllū'minē*, "there is a high wind."

Other Noises.

The word *skē'kletī'tlēk* is applied to the tinkling of a bell; the noise made by tapping with a knife on a tin cup or piece of metal, or with a pencil on the hard cover of a book.

"The ticking of a watch:" *Gā'kletī'tlēk*.

"Sound of discharge of gun:" *Skī'kinkākī'nītl*.

"Sound of discharge of gun at some distance:" *Kāki'nkākī'nītl*.

"Noise made in snapping a whip:" *Gā'k'k'mē'tlēti'klēē*.